Australian Government
NATIONAL ARCHIVES OF AUSTRALIA
Your story, our history

These copies are provided for research or study purposes. Before making use of the material for other purposes (for example publication) you should familiarise yourself with any copyright obligations.

NAA: A981, CAN 48

Series number: A981

Control symbol: CAN 48

Barcode: 173401

Number of pages: 38

Canada Relations with France

48

No.....

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS DEPARTMENT.

Subject: Canada
Relations with France

571.

Canada France.

OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA
CANBERRA

November 11, 1942.

No. 72.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No.71 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform you that the Prime Minister of Canada issued a statement at 9 p.m. (Ottawa time) on November 9, as follows:-

"The fact that the men who have been in nominal control of the Government of France have ordered the armed forces of France to offer resistance to the military forces of the United Nations sent to assist in the liberation of France from Nazi domination makes it perfectly clear that there no longer exists in France a Government that has any effective independent existence - in other words that there no longer exists in France a legal or constitutional Government in any sense representative of the French people, but only a German puppet government.

"In these circumstances the Canadian Government has ceased to recognize the present Government at Vichy as being the de jure Government of France and diplomatic relations with Vichy are accordingly terminated."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. D. Rogers

Acting High Commissioner for Canada.

The Rt. Hon. H.V.Evatt, K.C., M.P.,
Minister for External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

24
16
11

Canada - France

FILES COPY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.

REC'D 12 NOV 1942

DECODE FROM:-

HIGH COMMISSIONER
O T T A W A.

No. 192.

JF.....3879.

Date Sent: 10/11/42.

Time: 3.18p.m.

Date Recv.: 11/11/42.

Canada last night broke off diplomatic relations with Vichy. The Prime Minister said the decision was reached at a meeting of the Cabinet and after the meeting was approved by the Governor-General, and transmitted to the British Government and the Governments of the other United Nations. Immediately after the Cabinet meeting Rene Ristelhueber Vichy Minister to Canada was sent for and informed. In a short public statement the Prime Minister said "the fact that the man in nominal control of the Government of France has ordered the armed forces of France offer resistance to the military forces of the United Nations, sent to assist in the liberation of France from Nazi domination, makes it perfectly clear that there no longer exists in France a Government with any effective independent existence, in other words no legal or constitutional government in any sense representative of the French people, but only a puppet Government. In these circumstances the Canadian Government has ceased to recognise the present Government of Vichy as being de jure Government of France and diplomatic relations with Vichy accordingly terminated."

Arrangements are being made for the repatriation of Vichy personnel.

Copy to - Prime Minister.
Minister External Affairs.
Dept. of Defence. (telephoned)

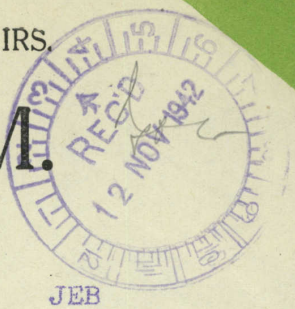
11/11/42.

Canada-France

FILE COPY

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CABLEGRAM.



3881. JEB

ENCLAIR FROM
AUSTRALIAN HIGH COMMISSIONER,
OTTAWA.

Date sent: 9th November, 1942
-11.p.m.
Date recd: 11th November, 1942

No. 191.

Following the United States invasion of French North Africa and the breaking off relations by Vichy MacKenzie King last night released 870 word statement on Canada's relations with Vichy. He said "Policy maintaining diplomatic relations Vichy Government has been misunderstood in Canada as in United States. It no secret that British Government having no diplomatic relations with Vichy attach no less importance than our own to maintenance Canada's relations. In this matter Canada, United States, and United Kingdom have followed concerted policy with common objectives." Prime Minister quoted Cordell Hull as saying purposes of maintaining relations with Vichy included opportunity of securing highly important information maintaining close relations with French people, keeping alive basic concept freedom of French people, retaining close touch with all phases of French and German relations under Armistice and preparing background for planning and sending military expedition into Western Mediterranean. "In spirit France has always been of company of United Nations. In no country has agony of France been more deeply felt than in Canada. Ties of kinship bind France more closely to Canada than to any other of United Nations. We have therefore in this critical hour special duty do all in our power make known to French people true attitude and real purpose of operations which have been undertaken". Although forces of United Nations may meet with resistance from French forces in no circumstances can that mean that we are at war against the real France. Whatever resistance there is will in reality be German resistance. Habits of obedience coupled with misunderstanding of true situation may be sufficient take some Frenchmen into battle against forces of freedom but their hearts will not be in the fight. A deluge of Nazi propaganda from the Vichy radio may be expected but no one in Canada should be confused or deceived by its purpose. Already in early hours of Sunday morning voice of Canada was being broadcast to people of France. We should keep our ears attuned to the authentic voice of France, the France of liberty, humanity civilization. The Press interprets the statement as meaning that Canada will wait for Vichy to take any initiative in breaking off relations.

Copy to War Cabinet;
Defence. 12/11/42

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE ~~CO-XXXXXXXXXX~~

Copy of INWARDS Teleprinter Message.

From: Dr. H. V. Evatt.

To: Colonel Hodgson.

Date 12.11.42 *Time of Receipt* 1355 *Hours.* *No.* M.4939

C.15411/41.

SECRET

M. 4939 1351

TO COLONEL HODGSON FROM DR. H.V.EVATT

PRIME MINISTER AGREES WITH THE FOLLOWING VIEWS SET OUT IN MY TELEPRINTER 3542 TO HIM OF 11TH NOVEMBER:-

''IT LOOKS TO ME AS THOUGH VICHY FORCES IN NORTH AFRICA ARE PUTTING UP LITTLE MORE THAN TOKEN DEFENCE, AND FOR THAT REASON I THINK IT FAR BETTER TO WAIT FOR A FEW DAYS. FOR THIS REASON NO ACTION SHOULD BE TAKEN IN RELATION TO CONSUL GENERAL HERE AND THE TRADE COMMISSIONER EXCEPT TO KEEP A VERY CLOSE WATCH ON THEIR CORRESPONDENCE AND MOVEMENTS FROM A SECURITY POINT OF VIEW.''

MESSAGE ENDS 1355 12.11.42

MESSAGE RECD OK

Colonel W. R. Hodgson, O.B.E.,

Referred.

J.A. Gallacher

12.11.42

CANBERRA. A.C.T.

for file

OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA
CANBERRA

November 11, 1942.

No. 72.

Sir,

With reference to my letter No.71 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to inform you that the Prime Minister of Canada issued a statement at 9 p.m. (Ottawa time) on November 9, as follows:-

"The fact that the men who have been in nominal control of the Government of France have ordered the armed forces of France to offer resistance to the military forces of the United Nations sent to assist in the liberation of France from Nazi domination makes it perfectly clear that there no longer exists in France a Government that has any effective independent existence - in other words that there no longer exists in France a legal or constitutional Government in any sense representative of the French people, but only a German puppet government.

"In these circumstances the Canadian Government has ceased to recognize the present Government at Vichy as being the de jure Government of France and diplomatic relations with Vichy are accordingly terminated."

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. ROGERS

Acting High Commissioner for Canada.

The Rt. Hon. H.V.Evatt, K.C., M.P.,
Minister for External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Office of the

High Commissioner for Canada

Canberra

November 10, 1942.

SECRET.

No. 71.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a secret telegram sent yesterday by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa, to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London, as follows:-

X "No. 246. November 9. Secret. The Canadian Government is giving consideration to the situation which will arise if the Vichy Government breaks off relations with the Government of the United States of America but takes no action to withdraw its legation from Canada.

We could, of course, break off diplomatic relations with the Vichy Government. We feel, however, that this would leave in their enemy-controlled hands the initiative of declaring the existence of a state of war between France and the United Nations. An alternative course would be to refuse to recognize Vichy Government as the Government of France.

So long as we continue to recognize the Government at Vichy as the legal government of France, it will be open to that government to declare war on us. A declaration of war by the legal government of France would have a bad psychological effect both on Frenchmen at home and abroad and on the rest of the world. It might prove to be a major defeat in the war of ideas.

The Rt. Hon. H. V. Evatt, K.C., M.P.,

Minister for External Affairs,

CANBERRA, A.C.T.

It is, it seems to us, of fundamental importance to anticipate such a move by withdrawing recognition of the legal authority of Vichy on ground that German pressure, culminating in a breach of relations with the United States, is now so great that the Government there has ceased to have any effective independent existence. This could be done without deciding the question of succession.

A policy of non-recognition of Vichy is one which can only be fully effective if adopted simultaneously by the United States and the United Kingdom as well as by the other of the United Nations. We feel strongly that we must avoid at all costs the danger of finding ourselves at war with France and that this alternative proposal offers us an opportunity of eliminating this risk while at the same time it would greatly strengthen the existing opposition in all parts of the world to Vichy's collaborationist policies. We should be glad to have your views on this proposal at the earliest possible moment. It is also being communicated to the Government of the United States.".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E. B. ROGERS

Acting High Commissioner for Canada.

TELEPRINTER MESSAGE.

TO : PRIME MINISTER, ADELAIDE.

FROM : DR. EVATT.

Following note has been received from Canadian Government:- Begins.

Quote. The Canadian Government is giving consideration to the situation which will arise if the Vichy Government breaks off relations with the Government of the United States of America but takes no action to withdraw its legation from Canada.

We could, of course, break off diplomatic relations with the Vichy Government. We feel, however, that this would leave in their enemy-controlled hands the initiative of declaring the existence of a state of war between France and the United Nations. An alternative course would be to refuse to recognize Vichy Government as the Government of France.

So long as we continue to recognize the Government at Vichy as the legal government of France, it will be open to that Government to delcare war on us. A declaration of war by the legal government of France would have a bad psychological effect both on Frenchmen at home and abroad and on the rest of the world. It might prove to be a major defeat in the war of ideas.

It is, it seems to us, of fundamental importance to anticipate such a move by withdrawing recognition of the legal authority of Vichy on ground that German pressure, culminating in a breach of relations with the United States, is now so great that the Government there has ceased to have any effective independent existence. This could be done without deciding the question of succession.

A policy of non-recognition of Vichy is one which can only be fully effective if adopted simultaneously by the United States and the United Kingdom as well as by the other of the United Nations. We feel strongly that we must avoid at

R/S

the danger of finding ourselves at war with France and that this alternative proposal offers us an opportunity of eliminating this risk while at the same time it would greatly strengthen the existing opposition in all parts of the world to Vichy's collaborationist policies. We should be glad to have your views on this proposal at the earliest possible moment. It is also being communicated to the Government of the United States. Ends.

In regard to this question, my view is that we do nothing until Cabinet meets in Melbourne.

There are disadvantages in withdrawing recognition of Vichy unless we all decide at same time to give recognition to Fighting France.

It looks to me as though the Vichy Forces in North Africa are putting up little more than token defence, and for that reason, I think it far better to wait for a few days. For this reason no action should be taken in relation to Consul General here and the Trade Commissioner except to keep a very close watch on their correspondence and movements from a security point of view.

10th November, 1942.

Copy to Prime Ministers Dept
for teleprinting. KJD
10/11/42

TELEPRINTER MESSAGE.

TO : PRIME MINISTER, ADELAIDE.

FROM : DR. EVATT.

Following note has been received from Canadian Government:- Begins.

Quote. The Canadian Government is giving consideration to the situation which will arise if the Vichy Government breaks off relations with the Government of the United States of America but takes no action to withdraw its legation from Canada.

We could, of course, break off diplomatic relations with the Vichy Government. We feel, however, that this would leave in their enemy-controlled hands the initiative of declaring the existence of a state of war between France and the United Nations. An alternative course would be to refuse to recognize Vichy Government as the Government of France.

So long as we continue to recognize the Government at Vichy as the legal government of France, it will be open to that Government to delcare war on us. A declaration of war by the legal government of France would have a bad psychological effect both on Frenchmen at home and abroad and on the rest of the world. It might prove to be a major defeat in the war of ideas.

It is, it seems to us, of fundamental importance to anticipate such a move by withdrawing recognition of the legal authority of Vichy on ground that German pressure, culminating in a breach of relations with the United States, is now so great that the Government there has ceased to have any effective independent existence. This could be done without deciding the question of succession.

A policy of non-recognition of Vichy is one which can only be fully effective if adopted simultaneously by the United States and the United Kingdom as well as by the other of the United Nations. We feel strongly that we must avoid at all costs

the danger of finding ourselves at war with France and that this alternative proposal offers us an opportunity of eliminating this risk while at the same time it would greatly strengthen the existing opposition in all parts of the world to Vichy's collaborationist policies. We should be glad to have your views on this proposal at the earliest possible moment. It is also being communicated to the Government of the United States. Ends.

In regard to this question, my view is that we do nothing until Cabinet meets in Melbourne.

There are disadvantages in withdrawing recognition of Vichy unless we all decide at some time to give recognition to Fighting France.

It looks to me as though the Vichy Forces in North Africa are putting up little more than token defence, and for that reason, I think it for better to wait for a few days. For this reason no action should be taken in relation to Consul General here and the Trade Commissioner except to keep a very close watch on their correspondence and movements from a security point of view.

10th November, 1942.

Copy to Prime Ministers Dept
for teleprinting - KJD. 10/11/42

Telepunter Message

To Prime Minister - Adelaide.

From Dr Evatt.

Following note has been received from Canadian Govt:-

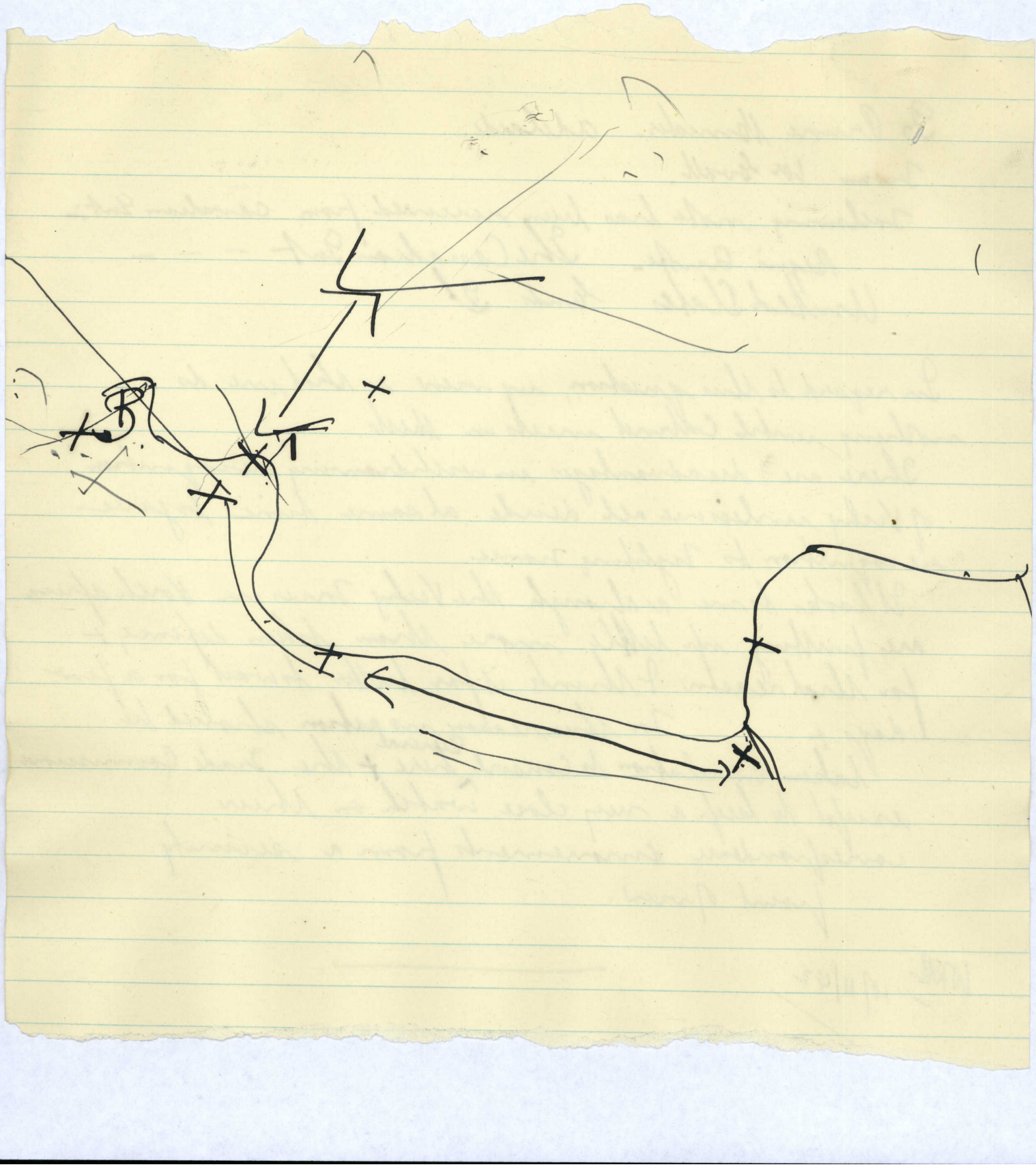
Begins. Quote. The Canadian Govt - - -
United States Ends Q.

In regard to this question, my view is that we do nothing until Cabinet meets on Tuesday.

There are disadvantages in withdrawing recognition of Vichy unless we all decide at same time to give recognition to Fighting France.

It looks to me as though the Vichy Forces in North Africa are putting up little more than token defence, & for that reason I think it far better to wait for a few days x. For this reason no action should be taken in relation to Consul General here & the Trade Commissioner except to keep a very close watch on their correspondence & movements from a security point of view.

WRM. 10/11/42



Per Secretary Time 5.40 pm

Message telephoned to Mr. Dalziel for the Minister 10/11/42.

The following letter has been received from the Acting High Commissioner for Canada -

Begins (text of letter) Ends.

2. Following draft reply to Acting High Commissioner is submitted for Minister's consideration -

Begins -

I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter No.71 transmitting the text of a secret telegram sent by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa, to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London concerning the situation in regard to Vichy.

So far as His Majesty's Government in the Commonwealth of Australia is concerned there is, as you are aware, no French Diplomatic representative in this country. The French Government is represented by a Consulate-General at Sydney, at present in charge of a Career Consul who is assisted by a Career Vice-Consul. There is also a French Trade Commissioner in Sydney.

The intention of the Commonwealth Government is to request His Majesty to withdraw the exequaturs of the Consul and Vice Consul, and a request to this effect is being sent to London. So far as the Trade Commissioner is concerned the Commonwealth Government will withdraw recognition extended to this official.

In the view of the Commonwealth Government the leaving of the initiative to Vichy to declare war is immaterial if resistance is continued in North Africa with the support of Naval Forces from France. As it is, a de facto state of war already exists with the Vichy Government.

Further, it seems to the Commonwealth Government that no good purpose would be served by adopting the alternative proposal of the Canadian Government to refuse to recognise the Vichy Government as the United Kingdom and the United States have made it clear that they are not prepared to recognise the Fighting French National Committee as a Government. To do

so at this stage would in our opinion create wide political difficulties and stimulate Vichy resistance which should be avoided in military interests. Ends.

3. Following draft telegram for Mr. Bruce is also submitted for Minister's your consideration.

Begins.

Please see telegram from Canada to Dominions Office on diplomatic breach with Vichy. We have replied to Canadian High Commissioner as follows (text of letter to Acting High Commissioner)

(2) Please (a) communicate foregoing to United Kingdom Government, (b)make request through Palace authorities to His Majesty for withdrawal of Exequaturs of both Lancial and Clementil and advise by telegram and (c) Please arrange for us to be notified before any notice inserted in London Gazette or other publicity as embarrassment caused to us by premature press announcements emanating from London in Tremoulet's case.

Canada - France

OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA
CANBERRA

REC'D 10 NOV 1942

November 10, 1042.

SECRET.

No. 71.

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of a secret telegram sent yesterday by the Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa, to the Secretary of State for Dominion Affairs, London, as follows:-

"No. 246. November 9. Secret. The Canadian Government is giving consideration to the situation which will arise if the Vichy Government breaks off relations with the Government of the United States of America but takes no action to withdraw its legation from Canada.

We could, of course, break off diplomatic relations with the Vichy Government. We feel, however, that this would leave in their enemy-controlled hands the initiative of declaring the existence of a state of war between France and the United Nations. An alternative course would be to refuse to recognize Vichy Government as the Government of France.

So long as we continue to recognize the Government at Vichy as the legal government of France, it will be open to that government to declare war on us. A declaration of war by the legal government of France would have a bad psychological effect both on Frenchmen at home and abroad and on the rest of the world. It might prove to be a major defeat in the war of ideas.

The Rt. Hon. H. V. Evatt, K.C., M.P.,
Minister for External Affairs,
CANBERRA, A.C.T.

Urgent.
Mr Hood

It is, it seems to us, of fundamental importance to anticipate such a move by withdrawing recognition of the legal authority of Vichy on ground that German pressure, culminating in a breach of relations with the United States, is now so great that the Government there has ceased to have any effective independent existence. This could be done without deciding the question of succession.

A policy of non-recognition of Vichy is one which can only be fully effective if adopted simultaneously by the United States and the United Kingdom as well as by the other of the United Nations. We feel strongly that we must avoid at all costs the danger of finding ourselves at war with France and that this alternative proposal offers us an opportunity of eliminating this risk while at the same time it would greatly strengthen the existing opposition in all parts of the world to Vichy's collaborationist policies. We should be glad to have your views on this proposal at the earliest possible moment. It is also being communicated to the Government of the United States.".

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient servant,

E.B. Rogers

Acting High Commissioner for Canada.

France Canada

copy.

OFFICES OF THE WAR CABINET,
WHITEHALL,
LONDON.S.W.I.

H.II176. 10th June, 1942.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

FRANCE.

I enclose a summary of events in France from May 7th to May 30th, prepared at the Foreign Office.

(SGD.) ALFRED STIRLING.

see copy France Italy
" Canada
" MK
Int

Summary of Events in France from May 7th to May 30th.

Italian Claims.

A great deal of interest and speculation was aroused by the intensification of the Italian press and wireless campaign in support of Italian claims on French Territory. This began shortly before the news of M. Laval's return to power was made public. As it gathered strength there were signs that the Italian Government were adopting a threatening attitude towards France, and several circumstantial reports were current of warlike preparations and of notes from Mussolini to Laval demanding the surrender of Corsica, Tunis and Nice. Colour was added to these reports by the news that King Victor Emmanual had held a review of 3000,000 Italian troops in districts near the French frontier. Marshal Petain replied with a review of French troops at Chateauroux, at which, however, he addressed a sedative speech to the Officers, saying "We must not be aggressive, for that would be the ruin of our country ... The country must know that we have been beaten. I spent three months after the Armistice telling this to all around me, and for the last two years I have been repeating it to myself every morning."

In face of this threat, Vichy appears to have remained calm. The Ministry for Foreign Affairs has denied the receipt of any communication from the Italian Government on the subject. Some disturbances in Nice however have been reported.

Martinique Negotiations.

The negotiations between the United States Government and the Vichy Governor of Martinique for the demilitarisation of French African possessions continued throughout the fortnight, apparently in a manner satisfactory to the United States. The refusal of the Vichy Governor to allow the Vichy Government to participate in these negotiations was presumably extremely unwelcome to Laval, who nevertheless contented himself with making a statement to the press giving the terms of the United States note to Admiral Robert, (demanding the immobilisation of all war equipment, United States control of communications, and the surrender of merchant vessels in return for the maintenance of Admiral Robert's regime in the islands and a guarantee of economic support) and a "reply" from Vichy recalling the agreements hitherto in force with regard to these islands and protesting in strong terms against the United States demands. In conclusion Laval stated that France would not in any case abandon any of her rights to sovereignty in the Antilles, that neither warships not merchant ships would be put in the hand of any foreign power, and that Admiral Robert was acting under the authority of the Vichy Government, and would conclude no agreement without that Government's prior consent.

Later, Mr. Cordell Hull informed the Press that the immobilisation of the French warships had been carried out and that tother questions, including the disposal of the merchant ships were still under consideration.

Attacks on British aircraft.

The attitude of the Vichy Government towards Great Britain showed signs of undergoing a change when Vichy aircraft attacked and brought down two British military aircraft off the Algerian coast. This action may have been a reprisal for Madagascar.

Laval's Labour Policy.

In a speech delivered in Paris to leaders of Vichy Organisation Committees, Laval emphasised the importance of hard work for all Frenchmen in order to achieve the reconstruction

of the country. He informed his audience that industries must be concentrated and rationalised to meet difficulties caused by lack of raw materials and means of transport, and that the distribution of man-power must be improved, especially in the case of agriculture.

Food situation.

There are indications that the food situation continues to be serious, although Laval has announced his belief that supplies will hold out until the harvest. In Paris there was a food riot in the Rue de la Seine, during which two French Policemen are said to have been killed and a number wounded. In the unoccupied zone the death penalty has been passed for the first time on a merchant convicted of ration-card forgery. M. Bonnet, delegate of the "Mission of Peasant Restoration" has made an appeal for 100,000 volunteers for agricultural work.

Anti-Semitism.

The new National Commissary for Jewish affairs, M. Darquier de Pellepoix, inaugurated his promised campaign against Jews by ordering that Jews or persons with one Jewish parent should be forced to wear the Star of David, forfeiting a clothing coupon to obtain the insignia. It is announced from Berlin that a special Paris police force will be established to deal with subversive activities of Jews. M. Marcel Wormser has been appointed Permanent Delegate General of the jews in France by the Administrative Council of French Jews.

Cinema Industry.

M. Paul Marion, Secretary of State for Information, has announced that a new Executive Committee it to be set up to control the cinema industry. The cinema services will be reorganised and placed under the direct authority of Laval.

Eugene Deloncle retires.

M. Eugene Deloncle has retired from the leadership of the French Social Revolutionary Movement. M. Deloncle, formerly a leader of the Cagoulards is an ardent supporter of collaboration and has hitherto been one of the most notorious Germanophile in the unoccupied zone. The cause of his retirement was given as ill health.

Petain Youth.

A curious incident took place in Paris after a metting organised by Jaques Doriot, when a party of young men who had attended the meeting and were parading in the street singing a song in honour of Marshal Petain came into conflict with the Paris police. The head of the police, Admiral Bard, ordered an enquiry into the circumstances in which the police had molested these young men. It may well be a coincidence that his removal from Office took place immediately afterwards. He has been replaced by M. de Bausciere.

Relations with Canada.

Diplomatic relations with Canada are still maintained, but Mr. MacKenzie King announced on the 20th May that His Majesty's Government in Canada has requested that Vichy Consulates and Agencies in Canadian territory should be closed, as they had become objects of popular suspicion.

Cardinal Baudrillart.

The death of Cardinal Baudrillart, Rector of the Catholic University of Paris was announced on the 19th May. Cardinal Baudrillart has been known since the collapse of

Canada-France

OFFICE OF THE
HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR CANADA
CANBERRA

RECD
23 MAY 1942
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

May 21, 1942.

Sir,

I have the honour to inform you that the Canadian Government has asked the French Minister to close all French Consular Offices in Canada by the end of May. The status of the French Legation at Ottawa is not affected.

I have the honour to be,
Sir,
Your obedient servant,

E. B. Rogers
for
High Commissioner for Canada.

The Acting Minister for External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Copy on Consul France-Sydney

Seen by WRH

Canada - France

No. E.A.36/741

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
OTTAWA

REC'D 15 OCT 1941 EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Memo to Mr Lee 17/10

14th August, 1941

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra.

Position of Vichy Envoy

The decision of the Vichy Government to collaborate fully with Germany in "the reconstruction of Europe" announced by Marshal Petain in his momentous broadcast on the 12th of August has raised again in an acute form the question of whether the French Minister to Canada should be permitted to remain. Mr. Ristelhueber's tenure of the post has been an uneasy one ever since he presented his credentials to the Governor General on the 3rd of June last year a few weeks before the fall of France. He has lived very quietly in the huge French Legation here, entertaining very little. At regular intervals since then the question of his status has been raised in the press and in Parliment but each attack has been met with the assertion of the Government that it had no intention breaking off diplomatic relations with Vichy. It has maintained that the French Legation in Ottawa furnished to the British Government via Canada a channel of communication with Vichy which did not exist to and from London directly. Once again, the press is after Mr. Ristelhueber's scalp.

The Montreal Gazette of the 13th August says "The Marshal has declared his goal at last - a reconciled Continent, now entering Hitler's New Order, and in whose reconstruction France intends today to participate. Syria showed it; Indo-China showed it; still many lovers of France could not believe their ears. Let them now believe their ears -and quickly before Dakar is handed over to the Germans and the enmity which was latent becomes active. The truth will never be plainer.....

W.R.A. W.A.W. 17/10

Will Ottawa continue to harbor the agent of the regime which plans to offset "the confusion of mind" caused by "the London radio and certain French newspapers," by introducing the Fuehrer principle and Gestapo methods? Will Royal Canadian Mounted Police continue to guard the sealed pouches containing his reports to Admiral Darlan?"

In a written statement at Fredericton New Brunswick, Mr. Hanson, the Conservative leader in the House of Commons, said that "all loyal Canadians will demand that the status presently existing at Ottawa with respect to the French Minister to Canada be immediately terminated. Now that Vichy has declared for full collaboration with Germany there is not even the shadow of reason for the continued presence of Rene Ristelhueber in Canada in an official capacity and the King government should take appropriate action immediately." It is understood that this situation was considered at a meeting of the Cabinet Council yesterday as well as the action to be taken in connection with the French Islands of St. Pierre and Miquelon in the Gulf of St. Lawrence.

Noël Deschamps
Official Secretary.

Canada — Treasury (in order)

FILE COPY.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

MOST SECRET

CABLEGRAM.

780.

DECYPHER FROM
HIGH COMMISSIONER,
LONDON.

Date sent 14th Nov.1940.
5.55 p.m.
Received 15th Nov.1940.

No.1008.

FOR THE PRIME MINISTER. MOST SECRET.

The Canadian Government with the approval of the United Kingdom Government are sending Dupuy formerly the Secretary of the Canadian Legation at Paris as Chargé d'Affairs at Vichy where he has many acquaintances in the Government and official quarters. After short stay at Vichy he will return to London.

BRUCE.

Copy to P.M's. Dept.

15.11.40.

Canada France

15 JAN 1941

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA
OTTAWA

No. E.A./50/40. 14th November, 1940.

Memorandum to
The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra, A.C.T.

Diplomatic Relations with Vichy.

It is highly probable that the question of Canada's relations with the Pétain Government will be raised in Parliament in the course of the next few days or weeks. It has been the subject of wide-spread private discussion and much comment in the press. In this connection, the attached article from the Ottawa "Journal" of the 2nd November, reviewing the position of the French and other diplomatic representatives in Ottawa, should be of interest to you.

Noël Deschamps

Official Secretary.

See in particular M. 18 on "Canada - Foreign Policy."

DIPLOMATS IN OTTAWA WATCH THEIR STEP THESE DAYS

Collapse of France and Setting Up of Petain Government Places Hon. Rene Ristelhueber, French Minister to Canada, In Difficult Position

By LANCE CONNERY.

DON'T look now, but they're treading on eggs down Diplomatic Row.

A cable arrived in the Capital, addressed simply, "Sauvant, Ottawa, Ontario". They were a little puzzled over at the telegraph office until they read the signature. A message from General Charles de Gaulle? Why, it must be for someone in the French Legation.

A few minutes later the French Minister to Canada, Rene Ristelhueber, was in heated conversation with Inspector G. L. Sauvant, Acting Superintendent of Penitentiaries. Department of Justice, who now happens to be chairman of the Ottawa branch of the National Free French Committee.

A Little Annoyed.

The two talked at length. It was not long after the fall of France. M. Ristelhueber represented the government which had removed to Vichy. He was a little annoyed that Inspector Sauvant should be in direct touch with General de Gaulle, leader of all Free Frenchmen.

And therein lay a situation which spelt diplomatic dynamite, a situation typical of those which have blasted the joys of career diplomacy just as surely as Hitler's legions blasted the peace of Europe.

It used to be fun following a diplomatic career, in Ottawa especially. Canada was such a pleasant country to live in, such nice people. And one's fellow diplomats were always so congenial.

They may be still congenial but quite a few of them must conceal it with the utmost skill. For there's trouble brewing abroad and these representatives of foreign government can't win unless the outcome be peace. In the meantime, they're getting grey hairs by the score as they contemplate events affecting their one-time colleagues who folded their tents and departed in the wake of war.

Parted Last July.

Shortly after Inspector Sauvant and M. Ristelhueber had their verbal brush, they worshipped together at the Basilica. In the comradeship of a common faith, they afterwards talked quietly and dispassionately of the fate that had befallen France, then parted. They haven't seen each other since. That was last July.

Since then M. Ristelhueber's position in the Capital has become rather peculiar. He represents a Government which is in open collaboration with Germany with regard to settling its internal post-war problems, albeit a government which has declared it will not fight Britain. The situation is strained, to say the least.

The French Legation once was one of the most popular social centres in the Capital. There isn't much entertainment there now.

The French Minister used to be one of the most popular individuals in Ottawa's diplomatic circles. Count Robert de Dampierre was a favored dinner guest and a well-liked speaker.

But they don't drink toasts to the Allies now. And the French Minister stays home and attends to business. There's not much else he can do.

The Japanese, incidentally, don't call the conflict in the Far East a war. It's the China incident, and when it's over they hope for the re-establishment of the friendliest relations.

These diplomats never forget the prime purpose of their job—to improve the relations existing between their countries. It does not seem in the least incongruous to them to carry on in such endeavors, even though actions of the folks at home may be making their nationality as popular as the garden party guest whose coat is striped with black and white.

Even until the last moment before war breaks out they carry on. And then they leave, often with genuine regret and sorrow that events beyond their control have led to their departure.

Poles Highly Regarded.

France is an occupied country, and her representatives in the Dominion are finding their position somewhat difficult. Poland is an occupied country, too, but her representatives are probably the most popular in Ottawa.

The reason? Perhaps it lies in the fact Poland went down fighting, without a single Quisling in her 36,000,000 population, with no Vichy Government to enable the Lavals and Baudoins to deal with the conqueror.

In any case, Mr. Victor Podosky, Consul General for Poland, and his staff, find their pressure of duties has increased tremendously since the Nazi occupation of their country. Like many another legation, they have refugee problems galore, besides a hundred and one other wartime tasks.

Britain hardly requires diplomatic representatives in one of the Dominions. Sir Gerald Campbell, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, represents not the King, but the British Government. Accordingly his status differs somewhat from that of a diplomat, who must represent the head of his state.

Principal secretary in the High Commissioner's office at Earnscliffe is W. C. Hankinson, who ranks as diplomatic counsel. Ian Maclennan and C. A. E. Shuckburgh are assistant secretaries, while Keith Jopson represents the Children's Overseas Reception Committee. In all, about a dozen persons carry on under Sir Gerald, but Britain has many additional skilled representatives in various war boards and similar bodies.

Sir William Glasgow is High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia. His official

CAUSE OF DISPUTE

GENERAL de GAULLE, leader of all Free Frenchmen, whose message to G. L. Sauvant in Ottawa was resented by Rene Ristelhueber, representative of the Vichy Government.

potentiary for Japan. S. Kanaya is attache at the Japanese Legation,, and Akira Matsui is third secretary. Commander K. Yamazi, I.J.N., is naval attache. C. Sekki and S. Yamada are chancellors.

Consul General for China is Chao-Ying Shih, with Jialin Jowe as counsel. Besides the Minister, the French Legation staff includes Henri de Lageneste, first secretary, and Baron Jean du Boisbenanger, secretary. The commercial attache, usually residing in Montreal, is Raymond Treuil.

Victor Podosky is Consul General for Poland. Secretaries at the Polish Legation are Henry W. Harajwicz and John Gorowski.

All these people have one major premise in common—they've a job to do, and most of them intend to keep on doing it, to the best of their ability.

Probably the most depressing feature of wars, in diplomatic circles, is that they invariably spell the beginning of the end of more than one beautiful friendship. It is no secret that exactly that has happened in Ottawa during the past year. Only events in the unpredictable future can determine whether it will happen again.

Meanwhile, members of the diplomatic corps are keeping their fingers crossed.

faith, they afterwards talked quietly and dispassionately of the fate that had befallen France, then parted. They haven't seen each other since. That was last July.

Since then M. Ristelhueber's position in the Capital has become rather peculiar. He represents a Government which is in open collaboration with Germany with regard to settling its internal post-war problems, albeit a government which has declared it will not fight Britain. The situation is strained, to say the least.

The French Legation once was one of the most popular social centres in the Capital. There isn't much entertainment there now.

The French Minister used to be one of the most popular individuals in Ottawa's diplomatic circles. Count Robert de Dampierre was a favored dinner guest and a well-liked speaker.

But they don't drink toasts to the Allies now. And the French Minister stays home and attends to business. There's not much else he can do.

In Extraordinary Position.

Meanwhile, the Dominion Government is in a rather extraordinary position. Here, on one side, they have Inspector Sauvant and his committee, designated by Henri de Kerillis when he came to Ottawa as General de Gaulle's personal representative, as officially representing the Free French cause, the cause which means the utmost aid to Britain and rallies Frenchmen everywhere to her defence. On the other side, they have the French Legation which officially represents the Vichy regime.

Yet Canada, officially, can have no dealings with the former, since the latter is still recognized as the only representative of the French Government. What will happen as General de Gaulle proceeds with formation of a government in exile, a government which may require accredited diplomatic representatives to carry on its affairs in the Dominion, is in the lap of the gods.

Chinese and Japanese.

Members of the staffs of the Chinese Consulate and the Japanese Legation are friendly fellows. They have much the same, bland, imperturbable outlook on life.

But they haven't exchanged a word or glance of recognition since July, 1937. For more than three years they have completely ignored each other.

It's just correct diplomatic procedure for representatives of countries at war. As soon as a conflict breaks out, they must not speak, must not even seem to see each other.

A trip in an elevator with Mr. Chao-Ying Shih, Consul General for China, and Mr. Seijiro Yoshizawa, Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary for Japan, would be guaranteed highly beneficial for the patient whose prescription was silence in large doses. The former was appointed in April, 1939, the latter only recently. They haven't met each other yet, and Ottawa hostesses are taking care they don't invite them both to too small a function. A large affair, yes. But a private party where the guests must mingle freely—definitely no.

country. Like many another legation, they have refugee problems galore, besides a hundred and one other wartime tasks.

Britain hardly requires diplomatic representatives in one of the Dominions. Sir Gerald Campbell, K.C.M.G., High Commissioner for the United Kingdom and Northern Ireland, represents not the King, but the British Government. Accordingly his status differs somewhat from that of a diplomat, who must represent the head of his state.

Principal secretary in the High Commissioner's office at Earnscliffe is W. C. Hankinson, who ranks as diplomatic counsel. Ian Maclennan and C. A. E. Shuckburgh are assistant secretaries, while Keith Jopson represents the Children's Overseas Reception Committee. In all, about a dozen persons carry on under Sir Gerald, but Britain has many additional skilled representatives in various war boards and similar bodies.

Sir William Glasgow is High Commissioner for the Commonwealth of Australia. His official secretary is Noel Deschamps. Geoffrey Bridgland is assistant secretary.

Hon. J. J. Hearne is High Commissioner for Eire. John M. Conway is official secretary.

David deWaal Meyer is accredited representative of the Union of South Africa, with W. Dirkse Van Schalkwyk as attache.

U. S. Ably Represented.

The largest consular and diplomatic staff in the Capital is at the United States Legation. An able career diplomat, Jay Pierrepont Moffatt, is U. S. Minister, while second man in the legation's set-up is John Farr Simmons, Consul General and Counsellor, as well as charge d'affaires.

Avery F. Peterson is second secretary and counsel. Miss Katherine O'Connor and J. Graham Parsons are third secretaries and vice-consuls. The latter is a recent arrival; he was transferred from Manchuria little more than a month ago to take the place of Robert English, who is now consul at Wellington, New Zealand. Russell B. Jordan is vice-consul at the legation.

Colonel Henry M. Bankhead is commercial attache at the U.S. Legation, with O. B. North as his assistant. Dr. Clifford C. Taylor is agricultural attache. Major John S. Gullet is military and air attache, and Captain Oliver E. Read is naval attache. The latter are officers of the U.S. Army and Navy on active service.

About 30 other persons are on the staff of the U.S. Legation in addition to those named. The clerical employes have increased in number in the past year, due to increased activity, some of which arises from the new border regulations requiring visas for Canadians visiting the United States.

Saul Aguilar is Consul General for the Argentine, one of the few South American countries with representatives in the Dominion.

Many Countries Represented.

Baron Robert Silvercruys is Belgian Minister, with Maurice Heyne as counsellor at the Belgian Legation. Chevalier Ernest de Selliers de Moranville is attache, and Maurice Kittel consul-chancellor. F. E. H. Groenman is Envoy Extraordinary from The Netherlands.

Seijiro Yoshizawa is Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Pleni-

that has happened in Ottawa during the past year. Only events in the unpredictable future can determine whether it will happen again.

Meanwhile, members of the diplomatic corps are keeping their fingers crossed.

Canada - France

NO.E.A. 138 /40.

6 DEC 1940

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA

OTTAWA

25th October, 1940.

MEMORANDUM TO:

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
Canberra.

French Minister to Canada.

I note from the Australian press that in a recent statement, M. Tremoulet declared that the Vichy Government was the only true French authority and referred to the continued presence in Canada and South Africa of Ministers representing that Government.

I have had occasion hitherto to refer to the anomalous position of the French Minister here, and would like to point out that it is increasingly occupying the attention of the press and the public. There has been no official statement on the position of M. Ristelhueber since the Prime Minister's reference to the matter in the House of Commons at the end of last session, but practically every leading daily paper has at some time or other carried a leader urging the rupture of relations with Vichy. The attached cutting of a leader from the Toronto "Globe & Mail" is merely the most recent of these editorial comments.

Noël Deschamps

S. Official Secretary.

"Globe & Mail"

MONDAY, OCTOBER 21, 1940.

WHY A PETAIN MINISTER?

As evidence increases of German domination of Vichy can Canada ignore the fact that the Petain Government has representation at Ottawa enjoying the customary freedom of diplomatic correspondence? It is a one-sided deal, as the Dominion is not represented in France and cannot logically recognize the puppet Administration set up. Britain has drawn the line between Vichy and "Free France" without equivocation. How can this country ride both horses?

The latest Petain order is one of a series showing how pressure is working. For the time being Jews are not being subjected to complete Nazi ruthlessness. They are permitted to retain civil rights and to practice certain professions. But they are driven from press, radio and movies, and, with a few exceptions, from public offices and educational and judiciary positions. The law applies to French colonies, protectorates and mandated territories as well as "unoccupied" France. It is not the way of free Frenchmen.

Mr. P. J. Philip, correspondent of The New York Times and The Globe and Mail, who has lived in Paris for twenty years, states that Vichy speaks only for a small minority of the French people, the majority of whom look to Britain and the United States for restoration of freedom. The New Order issued by Petain last week has no reference to a constitution or parliamentary government. Instead, it declared "Germany may prefer the new method to the misery, strife, repressions and conflicts of peace in the old manner."

If ever there were grounds for expecting the men of Vichy to advance some form of collaboration with Britain they have receded. Now it is clear that they are moving closer to nazism and that they can hold power only by using oppressive Nazi methods. Pierre Laval's paper Moniteur has referred to reports of United States' assistance for Britain as "hypocritical rumors which are poisoning a large part of public opinion." But notwithstanding the censorship which he directs, Action Francaise has saluted "the brave and heroic resistance of the English people" and Paris-soir has praised the R.A.F. as "excellent and worthy of the great responsibility which is theirs." Numerous reports tell of rising opposition to the Petain orders.

The people of Canada have faith that Britain's ultimate supremacy will free France from Nazi control or they have not. We don't believe they countenance the idea that the Petain organization should be retained within the friendly circle "just in case." The Dominion is in an invidious position by fighting to defeat that which Vichy represents and destroy the authority of the men responsible, at the same time retaining diplomatic relations with them. We can serve our own cause by being honest and courageous about it, but not by temporizing. Why, indeed, should the Nazi-controlled Petain group, which the majority of Frenchmen disown, have a Minister in Canada?

External

Canada-France.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OFFICER, LONDON.

Dated: 7th August, 1940.

No. B.129.

"Times" prominently reports Ministers Parliamentary statement that Australian Government concluded satisfactory arrangement with French administration New Caledonia and warm welcome to Mr. Ballard as Australian representative. "Transocean" report from Vichy that, according to French radio, Colonial Minister, on behalf of Marshal Petain, had made appeal to population of New Caledonia to make end to British authority in French colony. "Reuter" report that Supreme Soviet in Moscow Tuesday unanimously granted Estonia's application for incorporation in Soviet Russia thus completing inclusion of three Baltic countries and Bessarabia and Bukovina into U.S.S.R. "Reuter" report that Canadian Prime Minister stated exchange of diplomatic representatives between Canada and certain South American countries particularly Brazil and Argentina was under consideration. "Transocean" report that Canadian House of Representatives discussed question French diplomatic representatives at Ottawa and that Prime Minister stated French Minister received permission retain post and step approved by British Government. "Domei" report Rome, that believed Japan's new internal and diplomatic policies now being actively pursued by Konoye Government were explained in detail by Aman Japanese Ambassador Rome to Ciano at Conference Tuesday which began 10.30 and continued until afternnon. Following Ambassador's explanation conversation reputedly took place regarding European Far Eastern and American developments.

EXTERNAL.

Canada - France

6, Richmond Terrace,
Whitehall,
London, S.W.1.

COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA.
DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS.

CONFIDENTIAL

H.237

Air mail - 6.1.39.
Due to arrive - 16.1.39.

MEMORANDUM TO:-

The Secretary,
Department of External Affairs,
CANBERRA.

CANADA
Diplomatic Service

1. The Canadian Minister at Paris, Mr. Philippe Roy, has retired and will be succeeded by Lt. Col. G.P. Vanier, Secretary to the Canadian High Commissioner's Office in London. This, the "Times" comments, is the first appointment of a Canadian Minister from the ranks of the Canadian Diplomatic Service.

2. Mr. Jean Désy, Counsellor to the Canadian Legation in Paris, has been appointed Minister-in-charge of the dual Legations for Belgium and the Netherlands.

3. The resignation has been announced of Mr. Randolph Bruce, Canadian Minister at Tokio. It is stated that the appointment of a successor will be slightly delayed.

4. Mr. L. B. Pearson, First Secretary (High Commissioner's Office, Canada House, London) has been appointed Secretary, Canadian High Commissioner's Office in London, with the rank of Counsellor.

Alfred Stirling

Priority Immediate 1.55 Pac.

PRIME MINISTER'S DEPARTMENT.

DECODE OF CABLEGRAM.

FROM Secretary of State for External Affairs, Ottawa.

DATED 17th June, 1932. 3.55 p.m.

RECEIVED 18th June, 1932.

17th June 27.

In accordance with the notice of denunciation given by Canada on 16th December, 1931, the Convention of Commerce concluded in 1922 with France terminated on 16th June. French goods will now be subject to the General Tariff of Canada. Goods imported from foreign countries guaranteed most-favoured-nation treatment by the Treaty, which hitherto have enjoyed reduced duties accorded to France under the convention, now become dutiable under Intermediate Tariff.

KO/EL

9 FEB 1932

MEMORANDUM FOR:-

The Comptroller-General,
Department of Trade & Customs.

CANADIAN TRADE TREATIES.

It is reported that it is unlikely that Canada will negotiate a new trade treaty with France before the Economic Conference. It is also reported that the trade treaty between Canada and Brazil, which is the only other most-favoured-nation agreement Canada is a party to, will be allowed to lapse shortly in order that the hands of the Canadian Government may be free for the Ottawa Conference and in order that a two-column tariff (British Preferential and General) may be introduced into Canada.

Secretary.

SIMILAR LETTER TO SECRETARY, DEPT. OF MARKETS.

W. Nicholson

SECRET

4

CANADA.

L.L.O. Note - 1.1.32.

Denunciation of Canadian Trade Treaty with France.

His Majesty's High Commissioner in Canada for the United Kingdom reports that it is unlikely that a new treaty will be negotiated with France before the Imperial Economic Conference. He also considers that the only other most-favoured-nation agreement in force between Canada and another foreign country, that with Brazil, will be allowed to lapse shortly in order to free the hands of the Canadian Government for the Imperial Conference and so that a two-column tariff can be introduced into Canada (British Preferential and General).

6

19 FEB 1932

SECRET

13

CANADA.

L.L.O. Note - 18.12.31.

Denunciation of Canadian Trade Treaty with France.

Mr. Bennett issued a statement on the 17th December that steps had been taken whereby the trade treaty which was concluded with France in 1922 would cease to have effect after the 16th June, 1932. He also stated that the Canadian Government had expressed its willingness to enter immediately into negotiations for a new convention.

Kg

2 FEB 1932

2

KO/VI

17 SEP 1931

MEMORANDUM FOR :-

The Comptroller-General,
Department of Trade and Customs.

The Foreign Office advise, under date 31st July, 1931 -

"In retaliation for the increased duties on silk and mineral waters in the Canadian tariff, new French customs duties at 5s. a case on tinned salmon have caused French importers to cancel all their Canadian orders. It is reported that the effect of this will be to give Japan a virtual monopoly of the French market for her canning industry, which handles Russian salmon."

Secretary.

SECRET

1

CANADA.

F.O. Note - 31. 7.31.

French-Canadian Trade.

In retaliation for the increased duties on silk and mineral waters in the Canadian tariff, new French customs duties at 5s. a case on tinned salmon have caused French importers to cancel all their Canadian orders. It is reported that the effect of this will be to give Japan a virtual monopoly of the French market for her canning industry, which handles Russian salmon.

Ko

16 SEP 1931

Copy: TvC